

FIRST RECORD OF *HYPOCHRYSOPS CLEON* GROSE-SMITH (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) FROM AUSTRALIA

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Abstract

Specimens of *Hypochryrops cleon* Grose-Smith were collected in Australia for the first time at Iron Range, northern Queensland.

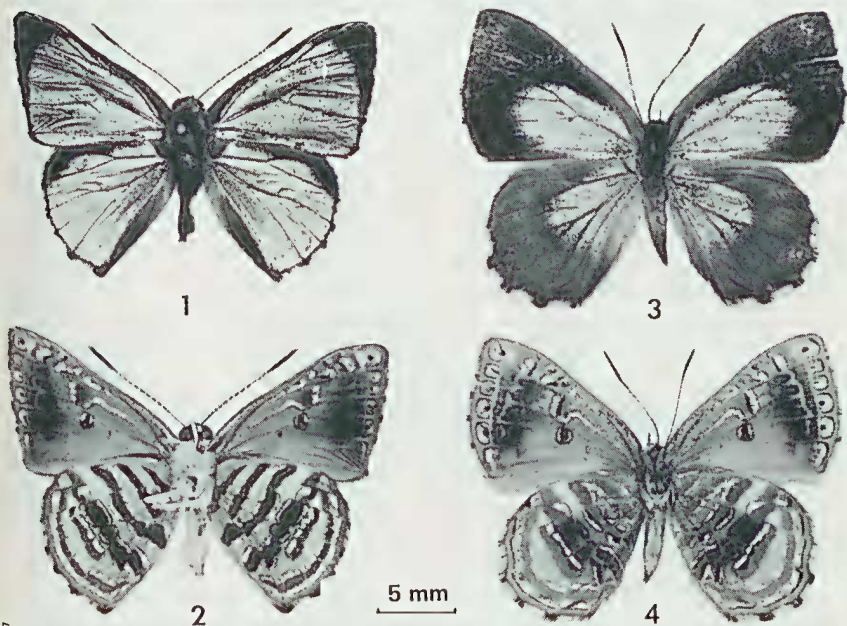
Introduction

On a visit to the Iron Range area of northern Queensland in June, 1978, two of us (M. De B. & S. J. J.) collected 10 males of a *Hypochryrops* species. These have been identified as *H. cleon* Grose-Smith by comparison with males and females from Papua New Guinea and the Aru Islands and the holotype in the British Museum (Natural History).

Abbreviations for museums and collections are as follows: ANIC, Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra; BMNH, British Museum (Natural History); DPAS, D. P. A. Sands collection, Brisbane; AM, Australian Museum, Sydney; MDB, M. De Baar collection, Brisbane; SJJ, S. J. Johnson, collection, Warwick, Queensland.

Material examined

AUSTRALIA: Iron Range, 10 ♂♂ (1 ♂, ANIC; 1 ♂, DPAS; 4 ♂♂, MDB; 4 ♂♂, SJJ); PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Gabensis, Morobe Province, 1 ♂ (ANIC); Bisanumu, Central Province, 1 ♂ (ANIC); Booboomia, Aroa River, Central Province, 1 ♂ (BMNH); Haldana, Collingwood Bay, Northern Province, 1 ♂ (BMNH); Kokoda Trail, Central Province, 1 ♀ (ANIC); Milne Bay, Milne Bay Province, the holotype ♀ (BMNH); ARU ISLANDS: 5 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (AM).



Figs 1-4. *Hypochryrops cleon* Grose-Smith: (1) male from Iron Range, northern Queensland, upperside; (2) the same, underside; (3) female from Aru Islands, Indonesia, upperside; (4) the same, underside.

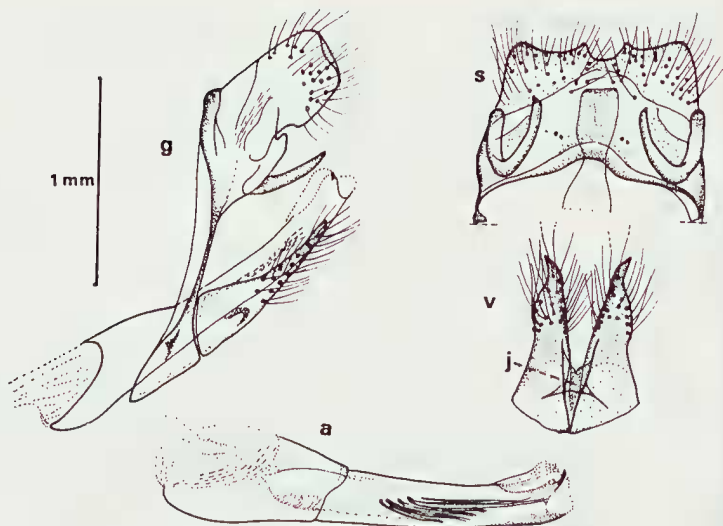


Fig. 5. *Hypochrypsys cleon* Grose-Smith, genitalia of male from Iron Range, northern Queensland: a, aedeagus; g, lateral view, genitalia unmounted; s, sociuncus; j, juxta and v, valvae from slide preparations.

Discussion

The holotype female of *H. cleon* was collected at Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea (Grose-Smith, 1900). D'Abbrera (1978) listed *H. cleon*, *H. cleonides* Grose-Smith, *H. hermyogenes* Grose-Smith, *H. pretiosus* Grose-Smith and *H. thesaurus* Grose-Smith all as subspecies of *H. protogenes* C. & R. Felder, and followed the tentative arrangement of specimens in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History).

Identification of the females of the *protogenes* species complex has been difficult because of the similarity, variability and scarcity of specimens. The holotype specimens of *H. cleon*, *H. cleonides*, *H. pretiosus* and *H. protegenes* are all females and distinctive specific features of the female genitalia have not been found (Sands, unpublished observations). The male genitalia of *H. cleon* (Fig. 5) are distinctive, and the sexes can be associated and distinguished from other species by the underside wing pattern (Figs 2, 4). The glistening violet colouration of the upperside of males (Fig. 1) is unlike the duller purple of males of *H. protogenes*. Specimens from Iron Range show some variability in the extent of patches of cream colouration between the bands of the underside of the hindwing.

All the specimens collected at Iron Range were taken as they settled about 8-10 metres from the ground on a small tree growing on a ridge close to Lamond Hill.

Acknowledgements

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